

A Record of the Flower-Pot Blind Snake *Ramphotyphlops braminus* from a Perth Suburb - The Flower-pot Blind Snake (*Ramphotyphlops braminus*) is an endemic species to South East Asia (Wilson and Swan 2003, *A Complete Guide to Reptiles of Australia*. Reed New Holland Publishers Australia, Sydney). The species has been introduced all over the world (Shine 1998, *Australian Snakes A Natural History*. Reed New Holland Publishers Australia, Sydney) including Indo-pacific region, Eurasia, Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Indo- Malayan region, New Guinea, Hawaiian Islands, Mexico, Iran and Australia (Storr, Smith and Johnstone 2002, *Snakes of Western Australia*. Revised Edition. Western Australian Museum). Within Australia the species has slowly been introduced throughout the tropical and arid regions being recorded in Torres Strait Islands, Darwin, Kununurra, Dunham River Station, Karratha, Port Hedland and Townsville (Wilson and Swan 2003; Storr, Smith and Johnstone 2002; Maryan 2001, The House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* and Flower-Pot Blind

Snake *Ramphotyphlops braminus* in Western Australia. *Herpetofauna* 31 (1): 26-27).

On 19 February 2004 a juvenile blind snake was handed into Perth Zoo by a member of the public. It was taken to the Western Australian Museum and identified as *R. braminus*, number R154547 (Brad Maryan per comm.). The snake is very small measuring 0.2grams, SVL: 66mm, TL: 2mm and purple/brown in colour.

The snake was found on the living room floor of a suburban home in Hamilton Street, Kewdale, Perth. The family had recently purchased some pot plants from the Canning Vale Markets, which may be where the little snake had originated.

From the size of the individual and time of year it was found it is possible that the animal was born in suburban Perth. As the species is parthenogenic, the establishment of the species in an area can easily occur as seen in other regions of Australia and the world.

- GLEN GAIKHORST, Senior Reptile Keeper Perth Zoo, 20 Labouchere Rd, South Perth, 6151.